AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification beginning at line 10 on page 15 of the Patent Application using the following replacement paragraph:

The modem driver 240 and/or the authentication agent 90 may be stored in a secure location, such as the system BIOS 170, a secure memory device on the ACR card 215, a secure memory device in the computer 100, *etc.* An exemplary technique for storing a secure driver is described in U.S. Patent Application No. 09/901,176 ~~XX/XXX,XXX, (Attorney Docket No. 2000.053400/DIR, Client Docket No. TT4040)~~, in the names of Terry L. Cole, David W. Smith, Rodney Schmidt, Geoffrey S. Strongin, Brian C. Barnes, and Michael Barclay, entitled, "PERIPHERAL DEVICE WITH SECURE DRIVER," and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend the specification beginning at line 16 on page 16 of the Patent Application using the following replacement paragraph:

Referring briefly to Figure 3, a simplified block diagram of the processor complex 110 of Figure 2 illustrating the execution of the authentication agent 90 using an SMM or secure architectural extension implementation is shown. In the embodiment of Figure 3, the processor complex 110 includes a microprocessor 300 that interfaces with a memory device 310. The microprocessor 300 executes the functions of the modem driver 240 in a standard mode of operation and the authentication agent 90 in a privileged mode of operation. For example, the authentication agent 90 may be invoked using a system management interrupt (SMI). The processor complex 110 transitions to privileged mode (*i.e.*, SMM) in response to the SMI and executes the authentication agent 90. The authentication agent 90 authenticates the modem

driver 240 as described in greater detail below. A portion of the system memory 310 may be designated as a shared mailbox for privileged mode activities. Applications operating in the standard mode, such as the modem driver 240, may place data in a designated inbox of the shared memory space, and applications running in the privileged mode, such as the authentication agent 90, may place data in a designated outbox of the shared memory space. The outbox may be designated as read-only for standard mode applications. An exemplary computer system having a shared mailbox for passing data between standard mode and privileged mode applications is described in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/853,447 ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ ~~(Attorney Docket No. 2000.038700/LHI, Client Docket No. TT3760)~~, in the names of Dale E. Gulick and Geoffrey S. Strongin, entitled "INTEGRATED CIRCUIT FOR SECURITY AND MANAGEABILITY," and incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please amend the specification beginning at line 13 on page 17 of the Patent Application using the following replacement paragraph:

The particular technique for invoking the authentication agent 90 and the frequency at which it is invoked may vary. For example, the modem driver 240 may call the authentication agent 90 at a predetermined frequency (*e.g.*, every N frames). In an alternative embodiment, the authentication agent 90 may be invoked periodically by another process independent of the modem driver 240. For example the operating system under which the computer 100 operates may include a timer that is used to periodically initiate an SMI to invoke the authentication agent 90. In another embodiment, security hardware including a secure timer may be included in the computer 100 for periodically invoking the authentication agent 90. For example, a restart timer 155 (see Figure 2), resident on the south bridge 150 may be used to periodically invoke the

authentication agent 90 after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed. The particular

operation of the restart timer 155 is described in greater detail in U.S. Patent Application Serial

No. 09/853,447, incorporated above.